

Healthy Families America

Benefit-cost estimates updated December 2014. Literature review updated April 2012.

Current estimates replace old estimates. Numbers will change over time as a result of model inputs and monetization methods.

The WSIPP benefit-cost analysis examines, on an apples-to-apples basis, the monetary value of programs or policies to determine whether the benefits from the program exceed its costs. WSIPP's research approach to identifying evidence-based programs and policies has three main steps. First, we determine "what works" (and what does not work) to improve outcomes using a statistical technique called meta-analysis. Second, we calculate whether the benefits of a program exceed its costs. Third, we estimate the risk of investing in a program by testing the sensitivity of our results. For more detail on our methods, see our [technical documentation](#).

Program Description: Healthy Families America (<http://www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org>) is a network of programs that grew out of the Hawaii Healthy Start program. At-risk mothers are identified and enrolled either during pregnancy or shortly after the birth of a child. The intervention involves home visits by trained paraprofessionals who provide information on parenting and child development, parenting classes, and case management.

Benefit-Cost Summary

Program benefits		Summary statistics	
Participants	\$1,938	Benefit to cost ratio	\$0.51
Taxpayers	\$2,092	Benefits minus costs	(\$2,305)
Other (1)	\$306	Probability of a positive net present value	46 %
Other (2)	(\$1,942)		
Total	\$2,394		
Costs	(\$4,698)		
Benefits minus cost	(\$2,305)		

The estimates shown are present value, life cycle benefits and costs. All dollars are expressed in the base year chosen for this analysis (2013). The economic discount rates and other relevant parameters are described in our [technical documentation](#).

Detailed Monetary Benefit Estimates

Source of benefits	Benefits to				
	Participants	Taxpayers	Other (1)	Other (2)	Total benefits
From primary participant					
Crime	\$0	\$10	\$27	\$5	\$42
Labor market earnings (illicit drug abuse/dependence)	(\$32)	(\$14)	\$0	(\$1)	(\$47)
Health care (illicit drug abuse/dependence)	(\$5)	(\$7)	(\$8)	(\$4)	(\$24)
Health care (major depression)	\$32	\$98	\$122	\$49	\$301
Public assistance	(\$194)	\$616	\$0	\$0	\$421
Labor market earnings (problem alcohol use)	\$1,518	\$647	\$0	\$2	\$2,167
Property loss (problem alcohol use)	\$3	\$0	\$5	\$0	\$8
Subtotals	\$1,321	\$1,350	\$146	\$51	\$2,869
From secondary participant					
Crime	\$0	\$45	\$120	\$22	\$187
Labor market earnings (test scores)	\$50	\$21	\$27	\$0	\$98
Child abuse and neglect	\$563	\$177	\$0	\$88	\$828
K-12 grade repetition	\$0	\$8	\$0	\$4	\$12
K-12 special education	\$0	\$480	\$0	\$239	\$720
Property loss (alcohol abuse/dependence)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Health care (disruptive behavior disorder)	\$3	\$10	\$13	\$5	\$31
Subtotals	\$617	\$742	\$160	\$358	\$1,876
Adjustment for deadweight cost of program	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$2,351)	(\$2,351)
Totals	\$1,938	\$2,092	\$306	(\$1,942)	\$2,394

We created the two “other” categories to report results that do not fit neatly in the “participant” or “taxpayer” perspectives. In the “Other (1)” category we include the benefits of reductions in crime victimization and the economic spillover benefits of improvement in human capital outcomes. In the “Other (2)” category we include estimates of the net changes in the value of a statistical life and net changes in the deadweight costs of taxation.

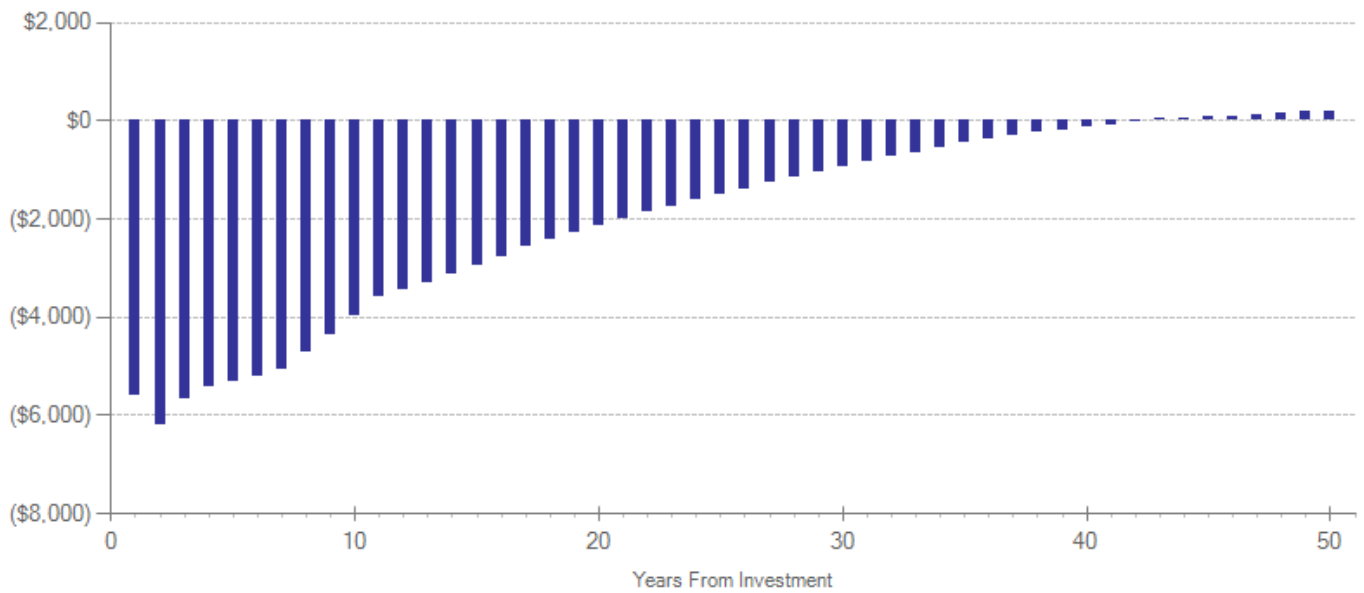
Detailed Cost Estimates

	Annual cost	Program duration	Year dollars	Summary statistics	
Program costs	\$3,348	1.18	2004	Present value of net program costs (in 2013 dollars)	(\$4,698)
Comparison costs	\$0	1	2004	Uncertainty (+ or - %)	10 %

Average annual cost per family from HFA survey of sites, FY2004 (available from: http://www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org/network_resources/hfa_state_of_state_systems.pdf). Average length of service provided by Prevent Child Abuse America, conversation in September, 2004.

The figures shown are estimates of the costs to implement programs in Washington. The comparison group costs reflect either no treatment or treatment as usual, depending on how effect sizes were calculated in the meta analysis. The uncertainty range is used in Monte Carlo risk analysis, described in our [technical documentation](#).

Cumulative Net Cash Flows Over Time (Non-Discounted Dollars)



Meta-Analysis of Program Effects

Outcomes measured	Primary or secondary participant	No. of effect sizes	Treatment N	Unadjusted effect size (random effects model)		Adjusted effect sizes and standard errors used in the benefit-cost analysis					
				ES	p-value	First time ES is estimated			Second time ES is estimated		
						ES	SE	Age	ES	SE	Age
Public assistance	Primary	3	998	-0.016	0.864	-0.016	0.047	25	-0.016	0.047	35
Major depressive disorder	Primary	3	817	-0.069	0.253	-0.069	0.061	25	-0.036	0.075	27
Child abuse and neglect	Secondary	7	3143	-0.135	0.313	-0.135	0.133	2	-0.135	0.133	12
K-12 grade repetition	Secondary	1	452	-0.015	0.903	-0.015	0.122	7	-0.015	0.122	17
K-12 special education	Secondary	1	452	-0.216	0.062	-0.216	0.116	7	-0.216	0.116	17
Test scores	Secondary	4	770	0.013	0.898	0.013	0.098	4	0.003	0.108	17
Internalizing symptoms	Secondary	2	720	-0.160	0.271	-0.160	0.145	3	-0.117	0.122	5
Illicit drug abuse or dependence	Primary	1	373	0.021	0.895	0.021	0.163	25	0.021	0.163	35
High school grad via test scores	Secondary	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0.002	0.013	18	0.002	0.013	18
Externalizing behavior symptoms	Secondary	2	578	-0.065	0.607	-0.065	0.125	5	-0.031	0.066	8
Problem alcohol use	Primary	1	373	-0.166	0.335	-0.166	0.172	25	-0.023	0.258	27

Citations Used in the Meta-Analysis

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For further information, contact:
(360) 586-2677, institute@wsipp.wa.gov

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